

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 14, 32, and 40 as indicated below, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough and added material is underlined. In addition, please cancel claim 15 and add claims 58-70. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A dynamic lateral stability device for footwear, the footwear having a sole assembly; comprising:

a resilient, sealed bladder for containing fluid, said resilient bladder having a sole portion adapted to be received by an opening in the sole assembly and that is adapted to be positioned generally horizontally underneath a portion of a wearer's foot, and a foot portion extending generally vertically from said sole portion and adapted to be positioned to a side edge of a wearer's foot, said sole portion and said foot portion adapted to be positioned at a metatarsal region of a wearer's foot and forming a free-standing generally L-shaped bladder, said foot portion in fluid communication and integral with said sole portion; wherein, compression on said sole portion causes an increase in fluid pressure in said foot portion.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said sole portion of the bladder is thicker than said foot portion.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein said sole portion is generally rectangular shaped and said foot portion is generally trapezoid shaped.

4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said resilient bladder has a channel for improving flexibility and structural integrity of said bladder.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein an initial fluid pressure in said resilient bladder is above ambient pressure.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein said sole portion has a top surface and said foot portion has an inside surface, and said channel is recessed in the top surface and generally perpendicular to said inside surface.
7. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein said channel includes a plurality of channels.
8. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein said sole portion further includes a bottom surface, and a contact that connects said bottom surface and said channel.
9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein said contact is oval shaped.
10. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein said channel extends to and recesses in said inside surface of said foot portion.
11. (Original) The device of claim 10, wherein said foot portion further includes an outside surface and a contact connecting said outside surface and said channel.
12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein said contact is oval shaped.
13. (Original) The device of claim 6, wherein said sole portion further includes a bottom surface that has a recess for permitting said resilient bladder to arcuately flex.
14. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear, comprising:
a sole assembly including a footbed for supporting a wearer's foot, said footbed having a lateral side edge and a medial side edge,
an upper connected to said sole assembly to define an internal volume of the footwear for receipt of a wearer's foot; and
a compensating means for compensating for an increase in said internal volume due to compression of said sole assembly by dynamically decreasing said internal volume in response to said compression, a portion of said compensating means adapted to be positioned underneath a

wearer's foot and adjacent said lateral or medial side edges at a metatarsal region of the wearer's foot. said compensating means including a sealed bladder with a sole portion and an integral foot portion, said sole portion being incorporated into said sole assembly, and said foot portion being positioned adjacent at least one of said lateral side edge and said medial side edge of said footbed.

15. (Cancelled)

16-31. (Withdrawn)

32. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear, comprising:

a sole assembly having a footbed with a lateral side edge and a medial side edge; said sole assembly having an opening;

a resilient sealed bladder for containing a fluid, said bladder having a sole portion and an integral foot portion; wherein

said sole portion is located in said opening, and said foot portion extends upwardly at said lateral side edge or said medial side edge such that compression of said sole portion causes said foot portion to stiffen.

33. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 32, wherein said sole assembly includes a midsole having a contour, and said sole portion has a surface generally flush with said contour of said midsole.

34. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 33, wherein said midsole has a lateral side and a medial side and said bladder has an outer surface generally flush with said lateral side or said medial side.

35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 32, wherein said bladder has a surface and the article of footwear is adapted to visibly expose said surface to an exterior of the article of footwear.

37. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 36, wherein said bladder has a surface portion that is at least translucent such that an interior of said bladder visible from the exterior of the article of footwear.

38. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 32, wherein said opening is adjacent said lateral side edge or said medial side edge.

39. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 38, wherein said opening is positioned in a metatarsal region of the sole assembly.

40. (Currently Amended) An article of footwear, comprising:
a sole assembly having a heel region, a toe region, and a metatarsal region, the metatarsal region having an opening;
an upper connected to the sole assembly; and
a resilient, sealed, fluid filled bladder having a sole portion and a an integral foot portion in fluid communication with each other; wherein the sole portion is in the opening of the metatarsal region and the foot portion is connected to the upper.

41. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 40, wherein said sole portion has a surface that is generally flush with a surface of said sole assembly.

42. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 40, wherein said foot portion extends upwardly from said sole assembly and has a top edge that tapers downward toward said toe region.

43. (Original) The article of footwear of claim 40, wherein said sole portion is thicker than said foot portion for cushioning, and said foot portion stiffens in response to compression of said sole portion.

44-57. (Withdrawn)

B4
58. (New) An article of footwear comprising:
an upper for receiving a foot of a wearer, the upper having a medial side and a lateral side;
a sole assembly secured to the upper; and
a sealed, fluid-filled bladder having a sole portion and an integral foot portion that are in fluid communication, the sole portion being at least partially located within the sole assembly, and the foot portion extending outward from the sole portion, the foot portion extending along at least one of the medial side and the lateral side of the upper.

59. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein a thickness of the sole portion is greater than a thickness of the foot portion.

60. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the sole portion includes at least one channel.

61. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein a pressure of a fluid enclosed by the bladder is greater than an ambient pressure.

62. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the foot portion is positioned on an exterior of the upper.

63. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the sole portion and the foot portion are substantially perpendicular to each other.

- b4
64. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein a volume of the foot portion increases upon compressing the sole portion.
65. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 58, wherein the foot portion extends upward from the sole portion.
66. (New) An article of footwear comprising:
an upper that defines a void for receiving a foot of a wearer, the upper having a medial side and a lateral side;
a sole assembly at least partially formed from a polymer foam material, the sole assembly being secured to the upper; and
a sealed bladder that encloses a pressurized fluid, the bladder having a sole portion and an integral foot portion that are in fluid communication, the sole portion being at least partially encapsulated within the polymer foam material of the sole assembly and positioned under at least a portion of the void, and the foot portion extending upward from the sole portion and along at least one of the medial side and the lateral side of the upper.
67. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein a thickness of the sole portion is greater than a thickness of the foot portion.
68. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein the sole portion includes at least one channel.
69. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein the sole portion and the foot portion are substantially perpendicular to each other.
70. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 66, wherein a volume of the foot portion increases upon compressing the sole portion.